

1939



1939

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Borough of Clifton Dartmouth
Hardness

A. DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. H. JEFFORD, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Officer, Meat Inspector, etc.

1939



1939

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Clifton Dartmouth

Hardness

A. DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. H. JEFFORD, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Officer, Meat Inspector, etc.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29150863>

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1939

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1939. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the scope of the report is, during present conditions, confined to vital statistics, and a bare record of essential health and sanitary services.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Based on the Registrar General's figures.

Area in acres—1925.

Population census in 1931—6707.

Estimated population 1939—6001.

Number of inhabited houses, about 1588.

Rateable value—£50,015.

Sum represented by 1d. rate—£196 2s. 7d.

Public debt—£132,332.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F	
Live	Legitimate	52	24	28	Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resi- dent population ...
Births	Illegitimate	3	3	0	
					9.16

Still Births	3	2	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and Still Births)	18.1
Deaths	86	37	49	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population ...	14.3
				(Corrected and adjusted Death Rate as compared with Eng- land and Wales) ...	12.87

Deaths from puerperal causes:

	Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Rate per 1000 total (Live)
Other Puerperal Causes	0	and Still Births)
Death Rate of Infants under one year:		.3
All Infants per 1000 Live Births		54.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate Live Births		57.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate Live Births		—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—9

„ Measles	..	—0
„ Whooping Cough	..	—1
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)		—0
„ Poliomyelitis		—1
„ Erysipelas		—0
„ Pneumonia		—1
„ Scarlet Fever		—3
„ Diphtheria		—0
„ Influenza		10

Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no new works during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Bakehouses.

There are 10 in the area, 72 inspections have been made. General Condition—good.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 28 Dairies and 13 Cowsheds registered. Dairies have been inspected 51 times and Cowsheds 47 times.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses and a public abattoir.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(a) Council Houses Infested	...	...	...	0
(b) Other Houses Infested	...	...	...	8
Disinfested	...	...	...	8

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

109 samples of milk were sent to the Bacteriological Laboratory for examination. Tubercle bacilli in none of the samples taken. The general cleanliness of the milk was poor. 32 samples failed in the Methylene Bue Test, i.e., showed evidence of undue contamination from microbes derived from manure, whilst 77 passed. There are now three dairymen who sell Tuberculin Tested Milk in the Town. The Sanitary Inspector submits these samples to the Devon County Bacteriologist for examination.

6 samples of milk were also taken from the various schools in the Borough.

There are in the Borough 5 Wholesale Producers, 7 Producer Retailers and 13 Retailers of Milk.

Meat.

The arrangements for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is, for the Sanitary Inspector to attend at the Slaughter Houses on receiving notice from the butchers. The conditions of the regulations are now being carried out in a far better manner than before. Shops and vehicles are clean and in a much better condition than they were. Any meat diseased or condemned is generally voluntarily surrendered, a certificate given, and the meat destroyed at the Refuse Tip. Systematic inspection of shops and food stores is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who makes a detailed report as Meat and Foods Inspector.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed ...	251	66	105	1519	503
No. Inspected ...	239	59	93	1476	564
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	15	1	41	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	18.8	25.4	1.007	3.09	.87
Tuberculosis only Whole Carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	4	—	1	23
Percentage of the number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	1.25	6.78	—	.07	1.07

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Water Supplies.

The results of the chemical examinations have been satisfactory throughout the year.

I—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year 1939.*

1 [a] Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	103
No. 1 Sector inspected ...	234

[b]	Number of inspections made for the purpose	537
2	[a] Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
	[b] Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	43
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	26
II— <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—</i>		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	66
III— <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year. A—Proceedings under Section 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	26
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices—	
	[a] By owners (undergoing repairs)	26
	[b] By Local Authority in default of owners	0
<i>B—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after services of formal notices—	
	[a] By owners	17
	[b] By Local Authority in default of owners	0
<i>C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
<i>D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
3	Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928	3

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

1 [a]	Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year	0
2	Number of families dwelling therein	0
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	0
[b]	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	0
1 [c]	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	0
2	Number of persons concerned	0
[d]	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded	0
[e]	Any other particulars	0

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

	No. of Inspec- tions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Prosecu- tions
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	24	0	0
Workshops (with Mechanical Power) ...	31	0	0
Other Premises under the Act ..	14	0	0
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total deaths
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	2	1
Erysipelas	5	0	0

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the P.H.A. 1925, nor under Section 176 of P.H.A. 1936.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	14	15	29
Non-Pulmonary	4	2	6

Report of the Dartmouth Infant Welfare Centre.

The following attendances have been made:—

Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	1209
Infants	...	...	...	...	...	817
1-5 years	...	...	...	...	...	548
No on books on 31 12/39: 132 Families.						

Again the voluntary helpers of the Welfare Centre have continued their excellent work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK,

M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and

Medical Officer to the Infant Welfare Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

HOUSING.

During the year 1939 the inspection of the District was commenced by areas (or sectors). No. 1 Area was inspected by Dr. White-Cooper (acting for Dr. Green, Medical Officer of Health, who was away on sick leave), and the Sanitary Inspector who reported their observations to the Health Committee on the 14th March, 1939:—60 Dwelling Houses, 2 Offices, 1 Dairy, 1 Licensed Premises, 1 Lock-up: total, 65 Houses. Notices were served under the Housing Act, 1936, on the owners of those houses where defects were found to exist.

A part of No. 2 Sector had been inspected when instructions were received that Civil Defence preparation had to take priority to all other general work in the Local Authorities' Districts. This put a temporary stop to Housing Inspection of the District as indicated above, and subsequently the war stopped this good work from proceeding indefinitely.

There have been 11 new houses built in the district, all by private enterprise.

Other inspections, etc., are included in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

W. H. JEFFORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

